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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CROTALARIA SPECTABILIS IN SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI

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(Plate 508)¹

FROM the collections of Mr. John Henry Kellogg, the Herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden recently acquired a specimen of an exotic *Crotalaria* which has been observed with increasing frequency in the southeastern lowland region of Missouri during the past few years. Further investigation has disclosed the fact that its use as a silage plant in that area has been extended by farmers who purchase seed on the market under the name *Crotalaria retusa* L. Careful study of descriptions and comparison with authentic specimens of *C. retusa* L., however, revealed a number of contrasting characters for which ample provision appeared to be made in descriptions of *C. spectabilis* Roth, a closely allied species resembling the former in general habit sufficiently to explain the confusion which has arisen between them. Both entities have apparently been included within *C. retusa* L. by some authors, for *C. spectabilis* Roth has not been listed in many of the Manuals of regions from which it has been reported. Furthermore, *C. retusa* L. has been commonly utilized as a cover plant, particularly in Florida and throughout the South, which might further account for the misnomer now under discussion. A statement of the most obvious distinctions between the two species is perhaps advisable at this point:

¹ Expense of illustration defrayed by the author.